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POL101: Political Science

Section: 33



(Quiz 1 & 2)

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# Answer to the Question no. 1

Politics is bringing in change. This change is done by forming a group of people who actively participate in bringing in a particular agenda to their side.

To say it more clearly, the competition between people to shape policy in their favor is politics. Now, the people usually compete within groups, and they direct the policy to go in their favor by influencing the people of society. In doing so, they try to put in the seeds of beliefs and values that support their choice of policy.

We can also say that the way how a group of people come to agreements or pass a decision through persuasion, bargaining, discussion, and compromise is politics.

Politics is mostly related to the state and government, as the government takes the most valuable decisions, pass law, shape policy for the people of the state. So, participation in politics is essential to preserve one’s own right, since without participation, others will influence the policies in their favor hindering others. State and Government influence a person’s life and lifestyle to thee core.

In a nutshell, through politics we decide who gets what and how much of what’s available in the world up for taking.

# Answer to the Question no. 2

Stanley Milgram in 1961 began experimenting on the behavior of the people, he wanted to find out how farther would people go just to follow orders. He found out that 65% of the volunteer went to the most extreme measure, while all of them continued till 300 volts at least. He did a total 18 variations of this experiment, and concluded that normal people are, indeed, likely to take even the most extreme measure while following the order of an authoritative figure.

Milgram opined that this following nature gets build up inside us when we grow up, through family, schools, etc. He noticed that “obedience” is rooted deep inside us, and people will continue to be obedient if they accept their Authority right and legal. This led Milgram to form the agency theory.

According to him, people have two states, “The Autonomous State,” and “The Agentic State.”

During “the autonomous state,” people are their own man, and take decisions, actions analyzing the situation and possible result. However, in “Agentic State” they give up their own intent and willingness, shut their decisive capability and simply follow the orders of an authoritative figure. They think the consequences of the actions are for the person giving the orders to bear, and they are free from consequences. Their responsibility is to simply perform the orders and not think of consequences. Now, Milgram also found that, for a person to completely enter the agentic state, he needs to believe that the person giving orders really has the Authority and qualifications to do so, and most importantly that person will also accept all the consequences that comes from performing his order.

Milgram’s experiment has its flaws. One of the major one is that, the participants were all volunteers, so, it might suggest that they had the volunteer personality by default, and thus can’t be an ideal sample.

# Answer to the Question no. 3

Yes, Political Science is really a science. This opinion, or debate of whether it is science or not depends fully on the perspective of how you view science. The basic definition is science is a systematic knowledge acquired through coordinated, systemized and classified observation, experience or study.

Now, Political Science checks all these boxes when you have an empirical view. The knowledge, or theories we have gained of politics have come to life after observing human patterns, effects of certain actions, and experiments. The life itself is the experiment of the social science, and thus making the society, history, the lab for experiments.

We can, for sure, say that political science is not a natural science, hence comparing it with the proceedings of the natural science is not justified. Science isn’t and shouldn’t be limited to just the static natural science studying the rules of nature. Science should be about reading and experimenting about any patterns around us.

Even in the field of natural science we see scientists often disproving another one. The whole world is a mystery, and the biggest of them is human. So, science shouldn’t be about being absolutely sure, and reaching a unanimous consensus. Because that is not actually possible. Instead, we should look at how we analyze the situation and can extract reliable information from them, which actually creates an impact. This both natural science and political science does. We know how poverty, corruption and exploitation can create a revolution.

# Answer to the Question no. 4

George H. Gallup has helped shape the polling survey as we see today. Surely, opinion poll existed before him, but he refined and devised such a method that became the global standard. He had introduced the scientific polling method, and taking a normal population as representative. His method also became massively used in Market research, and other statistical analysis. Before this Gallup Method, opinion poll would rely mostly on the quantity of participants and their reply. Gallup Method, on the other hand, does the analysis on selective group of people who are representative of the whole population, that is the sample is statistically average. He also interpreted people’s opinions, subsequent results and gave pretty strong analysis on the political happenings around the polling. Gallup had his major breakthrough when he successfully predicted the presidential election of 1936.

Literary Digest was very popular magazine, and their opinion poll had a standing, and respect to the people. It sends out questionnaire in the mail to its 10 million subscribers, phone owners, listed in phone books and car. So, the Literary Digest had much greater number of participants than any other poll, and claimed them reliable. However, through statistical analysis, Gallup found that Roosevelt would win the election, where as the prominent Literary Digest found the opposite. Because its sample was drawn heavily from the rich people. And, these rich people were actually angry with Roosevelt for his social and economic policies. So, George H. Gallup argued that the sample or survey of the literary digest cannot be true as the sample is not a correct representation. Gallup’s prediction turned out to be true, and thus proving that the traditional way of polling is not reliable.

# Answer to the Question no. 5

Targeted Killing and Assassination are almost alike. The major difference is however, assassination is illegal and considered a capital crime, whereas targeted killing is carried out by a government themselves without going through the judicial process, or involving in a war. On the other hand, Assassination is termed as planned killing of a person in legal power, maybe of government or prominent figure. Assassination has existed since the old times, but the use of the term “targeted killing” by the states to legalize extra judicial killing can be seen in the modern times.

**Targeted Killing** has been made popular by the United States. On September 30, 2011, US government killed a US citizen, Al-Awlaki through targeted killing. He was the first US citizen to be a victim of the targeted killing, and President Barack Obama approved for his targeted killing on the early 2010. Al Awlaki, a US-born American Imam and alleged militant, was said to be one of the senior figures in Al-Qaeda. He was also charged of crime in the Yemen, and the judge gave orders to capture him dead or alive. The US used drones in Yemen to track Al-Awlaki, and failed to kill him once. They succeeded on September 30, 2011, and killed him by firing Hellfire missiles when he and his group stopped for having breakfast in on their way to Ma’rib Governorate.

In Bangladesh, the first president, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was **Assassinated.** On 15 August 1975, a group of army personnel raided the house of the then President, and killed him, along with his most of the family members. The chief conspirators even after being close to the President were not happy about how Mujib controlled the army, and implementation of BAKSAL. The armies played the major role in this assassination, as leaders and subsequently the officers among them shared the same negative feeling. The assassination progressed in a very planned manner. The conspirators were divided into 4 groups, 1 group went to Sheikh Mujib’s residence, 2 went to kill his nephew and other leaders, while the powerful group went to neutralize security forces. Upon capturing the resident of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, he was asked to resign, but as he refused, the perpetrators assassinated him along with all his family members there. (Wikipedia contributors, 2020)

# Answer to the Question no. 6

Pope Francis is considered powerful because of his position, status, and power to lead the 1/6th population of the whole world. Over 1.3 billion people in the world follow the catholic church, which is controlled by the Vatican City, and the Pope is the supreme spiritual leader of all these people. Pope Francis is also an exemplary leader who has directed the church in a new unconventional way compared to the previous Popes. He didn’t forget to exercise his power and influence as a Pope and spiritual leader to such significant population to shape the world better. He is continually working to reshape the image of the Catholic Church being conservative. He is also vocal about the effects of pollution and its impact on climate change. Pope Francis even expressed concern about the treatment of the refugees and torture that goes upon religious minorities. All these have made him much more likable to the general public and increased his legitimacy.

By default, the source of power for the Pope is Authority. When a Pope gets selected and take the throne of the Vatican City, he gets the legitimate power to control all the churches, shape decisions, and even express his opinions and concerns regarding other administration with Authority. Pope Francis has not only the **Authority** as his source of power, but also got the **Personality** for leading. He can make decisions and voice his Authority in a way that influences people, can organize people for the better good, and definitely has the wisdom and courage to lead.

# Answer to the Question no. 7

Bangladesh is a Unitary State.

For a state to be considered a federal state, there needs different divisions and levels of government, and each of the divisions having their absolute power over some aspects. Whereas, in the Unitary State System, all the powers are centralized to the central government, and they give the ultimate direction for others to follow. In the federal system, the local government has some power which the central government can’t have any say on, but in the Unitary system, the central or national government can have a say on every aspect of the state.

In Bangladesh, the elected national government controls every aspect of the state. They give directives and formulates law for the local authorities, and people all over the country have to follow the same law. The local government of Bangladesh can’t really pass any law or give directions without being questioned by the central government. The Prime Minister holds all the power to direct, control all administrations anywhere of the country. There is only one ministry panel for the whole country, and whatever the ministry formulates, the entire country follows it. In Federal State, the police force is divided among the localities, but Bangladesh has just one national police force. Bangladesh also has one court system, and one chief Justice, who is appointed by the national government. The functions of the administration have not been divided among different levels or divisions. Instead, there is a central body that looks after it all. So, Bangladesh checks all the boxes to be Unitary State.

**Reference**

Wikipedia contributors. (2020, August 21). *Assassination of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman*. Wikipedia. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Assassination_of_Sheikh_Mujibur_Rahman>